Summary: The week ending 12/28/13 showed an increase in the number of reported influenza cases in Boston residents. 39 cases were reported between 12/22 and 12/28, with a total of 97 cases reported since October 1st. 29 cases (30%) have been hospitalized. Emergency department (ED) visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.25% of all ED visits this week.

BPHC reminds everyone that influenza vaccine is still widely available, and there is still time to get vaccinated before the influenza season becomes more severe.

Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC.
Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC. Influenza like illness (ILI) is defined as ("flu" OR "fever and a cough or sore throat") in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.